CHAPTER V

EMERGENCE OF WORLD CULTURE
5.1 CULTURE, WORLD CULTURE, AND WORLD PEACE

Culture refers to the total way of life of any society, every society has a culture, no matter how simple the culture may be, and every human being is cultured, in the sense of participating in some culture or other.¹

Culture is not a genetic trait; it is a result of evolution, based on natural selection, parental instruction, imitation and adaptation.

Anthropological studies reveal that human beings in were hunters, food gatherers and cultivators, so what we come to known is that culture evolved from simple to complex. Cultural evolution depends very much on physical and environment conditions. In biological evolution, variability comes from genetic recombination and mutation, and in cultural evolution, it comes from recombination of learned behaviours and from invention.²

Culture is never static it is an on going process. From Stone Age to modern space age human society evolved diverse culture
to suit society and suit their necessity, in this process he has become more and more self-centric and too much carving more for sensual pleasures has perverted him. Man has lost social equilibrium and peace of mind, which is the bedrock of human society. World today is caught amidst the dark clouds of terror and in security.

Modern world is facing multiple problems, in social, political, economic and cultural spheres. World could some how withstand two world wars at cost of millions of lives, but mankind is not ready for third world war, as if occurs extinction of entire human race can never be doubted. Human history has been replete with conflicts, wars and bloodshed. The present situation is no different; conflicts at present are not only among Nations but also among regions, communities, languages, religions, and ideologies etc. in fact in every conceivable aspect of human life. There are multiple causes for global unrest. In societies, where ever disparities exist escalations persist, World today is witnessing untold disparities and crises in almost every spheres of human life, The problems of contemporary world are the result of a complex issues. Many of these problems are based on the policy of segregation that has not been addressed by the World think tank. Recent policies of globalization and exploitation have further worsened the existing lot of problems. The agenda of world
welfare has remained unfinished, resulting simmering unrest and tensions.

Besides domestic problems, crisis at national level are steadily mounting in all countries, to top it terrorism has become grievous headache to almost all countries world. The World is taking serious concern about it only after 9/11; where as many countries of the world like India are facing this parasite since decades. In such a situation, it becomes utmost priority to contemplate and bring out solutions to redeem humanity form such crises.

The aim of the culture is human betterment. In the 21st century the very concept of culture has changed drastically, human subtle values, morals, ethics and discipline have taken back seat There is perhaps no phenomenon, as complex as 'culture'. In a manner of speaking, culture is everything in a particular society. The need of the hour is evolve such a culture, which can embrace man irrespective of caste, class, colour, creed and nationality.

To end differences among people of the World it essential to understand the inseparable unity of mankind, in this context is worth to have glance at the history of Universe and human. The theory of Evolution credited by the recent scientific investigations,
it reveals that our Solar system had come into existence about
4,600 million years ago by a giant cloud of gas called as Nebula,
which eventually gave rise to Sun and nine Planets, and probably
Earth might be the only planet to have life forms, Earth had
remained lifeless for about thousand million of years before origin
of first known life forms Viz. bacteria & blue-green algae about
3,400 million years ago. Early humans evolved about 700 million
years ago but Homosapiens or modern humans evolved only
150,000 years ago.³

The researchers of the university of California, Berkeley,
USA created a genetic map by using mitochondrial DNA; which
indicated that all human beings have originated from a single
ancestor (mt Eve) (single-origin model) who lived around
150,000 years ago in a place, which we now call it as Africa since
then its descendants have gradually populated the entire planet.
The latest genetic studies suggests that the first and only human
tribe out of Africa to whom every other race can trace their genes
to were found in India ⁴ This reminds us the ancient Indian ideal
`Vasudhaiva Kutuambakam`, which means All Mankind is One
Family.⁵ When we all human being on this planet belong to one
single family why should we quarrel among us, aren't we
offsprings of a single mother?
Further in addition we have continental Drift theory by German Geologist Alfred Wegner who in 1924 gave the continental Drift theory according to him about 150 /200 million years ago there was a single mass of land or continent on earth called as Pangaea (meaning "all lands"), which broke in to several pieces and drifted apart.

Prior to Continental Drift, Antarctica Australia, Peninsular India and Madagascar were neatly nested together close to the Southern tip of Africa. Eurasia drifted to the west, north and South America pulled away from West Africa, when the sea level was lower north America and Asia was connected by dry land were today Bering Strait.

The theory of tectonics establishes that both continents and ocean floor form solid plates, which "float" on the asthenosphere, an extremely viscous liquid, thus when even the land for which we fight, belongs no single individual or country but to all of us, then why should we quarrel for it, doesn't it belong to all of us?

Both theories affirm that we are one family and have one land. Mother Theresa rightly said" If there is no peace; it is because we have forgotten that we belong to one another."
Now the time has come rethink on what culture are going to live in the 21st century. In order to rescue mankind from the
suffocation these crises, we have to evolve a World culture on the foundations, of Universal brotherhood, humanity, tolerance, adjustment, and catholicity, which can alone usher peace and prosperity all over the World. We have keep in mind, just as no individual is immortal, no particular cultural pattern is impervious to change and we to have change this present fatalistic, inhumane culture in to a World Culture.
End Notes


3. Mitochondrial Eve - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.htm


6. Children science library/ EARTH / (pustak Mahal Delhi-2004) P. 8

7. Opcit, B.P. Siddhasrama. P.100
5.2 PEACE WITHIN AND WITHOUT

The world at present is beset with multitude kinds of upheavals, owing to which the world has become a region of sorrows, death and unlimited grief. The state of affairs of the world has become worse than before. Today if the World needs any thing it is only peace. Man in modern age has achieved highly laudable advancements; he has achieved unimaginable milestones in the field of science and technology. But to dismay human innate power and social problems remain untouched, still majority of population is struggling for basic amenities such as food clothing and shelter, there are families who hardly get a single meal a day. Economic disparities are on rise; one in three Indian children still goes to bed hungry. Instances such as selling of children just secure a meal are not some thing new. Majority of the population of the 21st century still live under below poverty line. Many African countries have nearly 50% of its population below poverty line.\textsuperscript{1} Even in the 21st century citizens does not have shelter to protect them, In fact largest slum of Asia is in Mumbai, unless the very basic amenities are not secured, peace is a very distant dream.
Richer countries are growing richer and poor countries are getting poorer year by year. Even in the aspects satisfaction with life we find pronounced differences between rich and poor countries, amidst such situations how one can have peace. Few rich countries of the world have succeeded in providing basic amenities of life to its citizens, but in spite this, there is growing mental uneasiness, dissatisfaction, discontentment and restlessness among citizens.

Socio-economic inequalities, wars terrorism has tormented world at alarming and deploring level. At present the world needs peace, what is peace then? Is it mere absence of war? According to Prof B.P.Siddhasrama "The concept of peace denotes the state of tranquility, orderliness, calmness, security, normalcy, justice, equality, universal fraternity and mutual respect for human life." 2

When we say 'peace' we think not only of tranquility, order, calm, security and normality but also of justice and respect for the rights of others. When we lack peace, disturbance, disorder, insecurity and abnormal conditions invade human mind. Disturbances lead to lack of development, oppression and injustice, violation of rights, violence and war. But Peace is not merely the absence or avoidance of conflict. Peace is the lack of joy.
According to the data published on 'The world map of happiness' by UNESCO, the CIA, the New Economics Foundation, the WHO, the Veerhoven Database, the Latinbarometer, the Afrobarometer and United Nations Human Development Report (UNHDR) Denmark is the happiest country in the world (satisfaction with life index: 273.33), while Burundi in Africa ranked the lowest (178). This shows there is ample of differences not only in the matter of wealth but even in matter of happiness.

The world map of happiness was based on data from 178 countries and on the findings of over 100 different studies around the world questioning 80,000 people about happiness and satisfaction with life. The study found that the frustrations of modern life and the anxieties of the age seem to be much less significant compared to the health, financial and educational needs in other parts of the world.3

Material satisfaction can never make man happy a recent BBC survey found that 81% of the British population thinks the government should focus on making them happier rather than wealthier.4
So what it becomes evident that both rich and poor countries are suffering from lack of happiness. Causes of it are many right from physical conditions to mental make up. Without out peace of mind and peaceful atmosphere no individual or society can make any progress or positive contribution. Peace is the primary objective of every society and of national and international life.

The way out of this pressing situation shall be a collective effort by every single citizen of the world. The remedy is two way, one is sensitivity to the pressing problems and collective emancipation measures, Another way out is realization of true nobler values of humanity and understanding peripheral nature of material culture. The need of the hour is the realization of our spiritual values, and cultivation for humane values such, mercy, charity, tolerance etc.

Underlying all our plans and hopes for a better future, underpinning all our efforts to evolve into a prosperous democratic nation is the shared aspiration of all Indian people for peace. Peace is the essential prerequisite for all human and social development, for which we have to strive to meet, first the basic essentials of
man, we must increase our knowledge, develop our productive skills, strengthen our physical infrastructure, and integrate our multitudinous communities into a strong, united nation. The challenges to peace are numerous and they come from all directions—from outside our borders, as well as from within our minds. Our capacity to preserve and build a lasting peace for all depends on the socio-economic, political security and justice for all. Unless the basic requirements are meet man cannot have peace of mind. When the man is disturbed in thought his actions is bound to follow. A well known maxim says “a healthy mind reside in a healthy body” emphasizing the inseparability of relationship between mind and body, in the same way peace also has an undeniable relationship between man and his environment. Peace cannot be established by neglecting the other.

Building a culture of peace means not just putting an end to violence but transcending the physical limits. It means evolving a culture on the basis of values, ways of thinking and attitudes that are in keeping with equality, tolerance, sharing, generosity and respect.
A harmonious society is thus a society in which everyone shares a culture of peace rather than one of violence. When we look around us, a culture of extreme materialism violence, ill will, hatred, selfishness seems to be ruling our society. This is the culture that we must replace by profoundly changing our reflexes, ways of thinking and habits. We should be able to say that a culture of peace, here, in our country, today and for us, is more meaningful and tangible than a culture of violence.

To have peace without peace within is essential. Once when Peace within is achieved peace without will automatically follow. Swami Vivekananda rightly remarks that World peace depends on social peace, social peace on individual peace, which depends on spiritual awareness of the individual.
End Notes

1. CIA - The World Factbook
2. Siddhasrama.B.P " Spiritual Globalization (Siddhaprakashana, Dharwad, Karnataka-2006) P. 80
4. www.financialexpress-bd.com, August 1, 2006